

**MYELOPSOIDES VENUSTUS, A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF  
PHYCITINAE (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE) FROM  
THE WESTERN UNITED STATES**

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*Abstract.*—*Myelopsoides venustus*, a new genus and species of Phycitinae from California and Idaho, is described and illustrated.

*Key Words:* Pyralidae, California, Idaho

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The genus *Myelopsis* Heinrich, and related genera, were treated by Neunzig (1990) in the series "Moths of America north of Mexico." Additional studies of phycitines in the collections of the University of California at Davis (UCDC), and the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (USNM) have revealed a moth, previously overlooked, that appears to be closely related to *Myelopsis*. The new genus and species is represented in the collections by only a few specimens. Label data suggest that the moth occurs at sites with moderate to relatively high elevations (2500' to 7200') in the western United States.

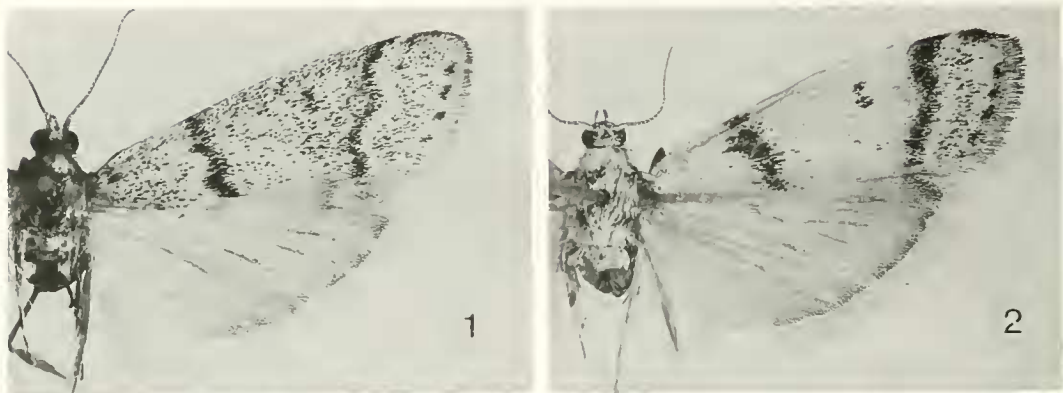
***Myelopsoides* Neunzig, new genus**

Type species.—*Myelopsoides venustus* Neunzig

The most obvious diagnostic features distinguishing *Myelopsoides* from other phycitine genera can be seen in the male genitalia. The valva has the base of the costa strongly sclerotized and noticeably concave with a short, setiferous projection at the distal aspect of the concavity, and has a similarly sized, proximally directed, setiferous lobe at its inner base (Fig. 3).

Description.—Antenna simple in both

sexes; sensilla trichodea (cilia) of shaft of male moderately abundant, and, at base of shaft about 0.5× as long as basal diameter of shaft. Frons convex, smoothly scaled. Labial palpus of both sexes upcurved. Maxillary palpus of both sexes simple. Haustellum well developed. Ocellus weakly developed. Basal half of costa of forewing of male slightly convex, without costal fold. Forewing (Fig. 6) without raised scales; with 10 veins; R<sub>2</sub> straight; R<sub>3+4</sub> weakly developed as a short spur of R<sub>5</sub>; M<sub>1</sub> rather straight; M<sub>2+3</sub> and CuA slightly separated at base; CuA<sub>1</sub> from just before lower outer angle of cell; CuA<sub>2</sub> from well before lower outer angle of cell. Hindwing (Fig. 6) with 7 veins (1A, 2A and 3A together treated as 1 vein); Sc + R<sub>1</sub> fused to R<sub>5</sub> for about 0.6× its length from cell; M<sub>1</sub> from upper outer angle of cell; M<sub>2+3</sub> and CuA<sub>1</sub> adjacent, or M<sub>2+3</sub> briefly fused with CuA<sub>1</sub> at base; CuA<sub>2</sub> from well before lower outer angle of cell; cell slightly less than 0.5× as long as wing. Abdominal segment 8 of male without scale tufts. Male genitalia (Figs. 3-5) with uncus subtriangular, rounded at apex; apical process of gnathos v-shaped; transtilla a broad, truncated structure composed of well sclerotized, lateral elements weakly joined medially; distal half of transtilla wrinkled and



Figs. 1-2. *Myelopsoides venustus*. 1, Male, holotype (13.5 mm). 2, Female, paratype (13.0 mm). Length of forewing in parentheses.

minutely spined; juxta broadly v-shaped with short, setiferous, lateral lobes; valva with base of costa strongly sclerotized and concave with short, setiferous projection at distal aspect of concavity, and with similarly sized, proximally directed, setiferous lobe at inner base; vesica of aedeagus with an elongate, flattened, partially sclerotized element (eversion of vesica (Fig. 5) results in the more heavily sclerotized part of element being directed distally); vinculum slightly longer than greatest width. Female genitalia (Figs. 7-9) with ductus bursae membranous, slender, more than  $2\times$  as long as corpus bursae; corpus bursae membranous, somewhat pear-shaped, scobinate, with signum composed of 3, small, fused sclerotized discs; ductus seminalis attached to corpus bursae near junction of ductus bursae and corpus bursae.

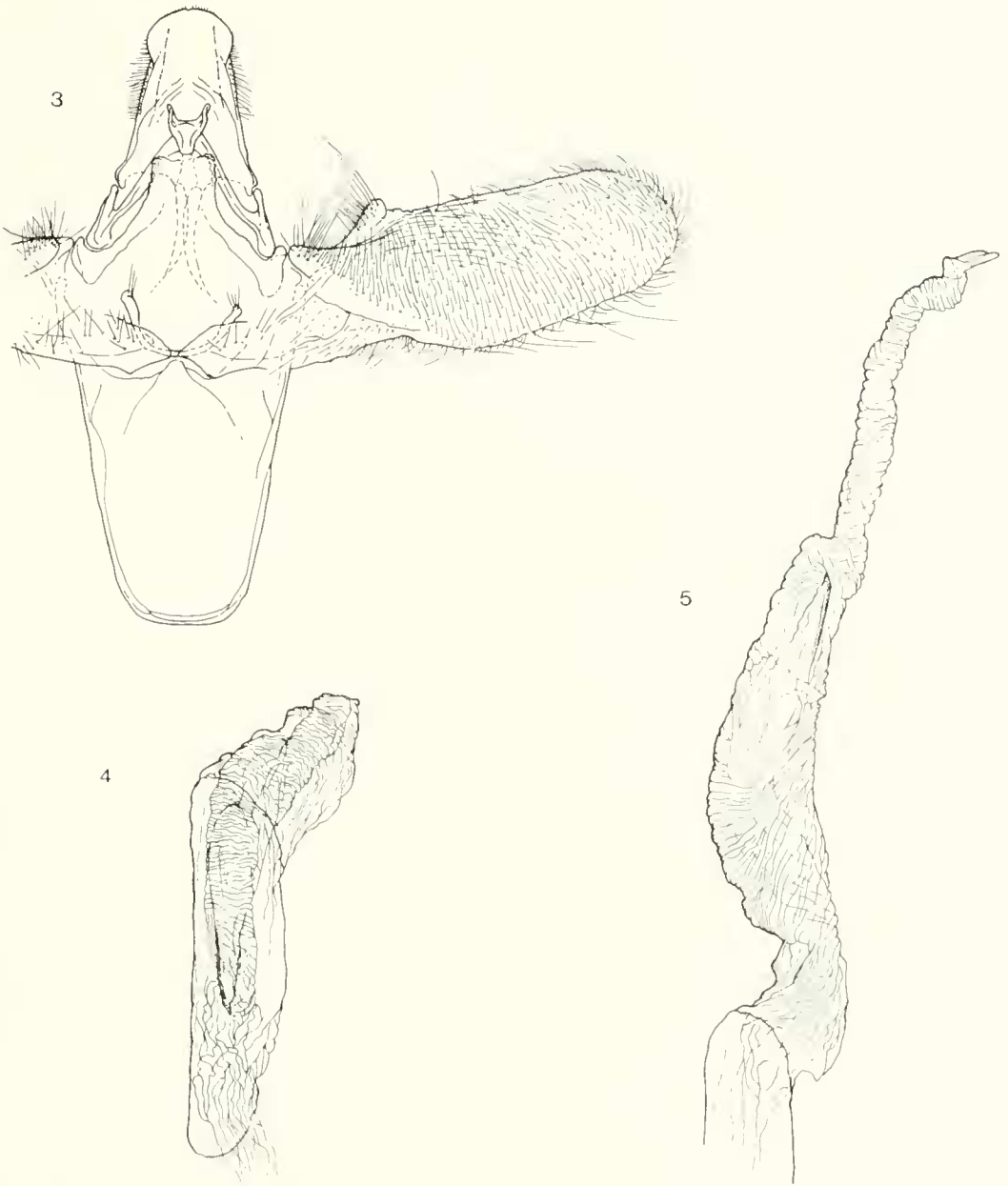
**Discussion.**—The genus is like *Myelopsis* Heinrich with regard to general habitus, simple antennae in both sexes, forked apical process of the gnathos, a complete transtilla, strong sclerotization of the costa of the valva (at least basally in *Myelopsoides*), and a membranous ductus bursae. The unique appearance of the base of the valva of *Myelopsoides* readily separates the two genera.

**Etymology.**—The name *Myelopsoides* (gender: masculine) denotes the similarity of *Myelopsoides* and *Myelopsis*.

***Myelopsoides venustus* Neunzig,  
new species  
(Figs. 1-9)**

**Type locality.**—U.S.A.: California, Lee Vining Creek, 6 mi west Mono Lake, 7, 200'.

**Description.**—Forewing length 11.0-13.5 mm. **Head:** frons and vertex white, or grayish white, and fuscous and black; labial palpus with basal segment white, or pale gray (some specimens with a few dark gray scales), second segment white, or pale gray, with fuscous or black scales, third segment mostly fuscous or black. **Thorax:** collar white (grayish white in some specimens), in male, washed with varying amounts of fuscous or black, in female, entirely white, or pale gray; dorsum of thorax white (pale gray in some specimens), and fuscous or black (in female, almost entirely white or pale gray). Forewing, except for dark transverse bands, mostly white (or gray) sprinkled with varying amounts of fuscous or black (female with forewing, except for dark transverse bands, almost entirely white or pale gray with very few fuscous or black scales); costa with narrow basal streak of fuscous or black; antemedial line white or pale gray (with few fuscous or black scales in some specimens), blending with ground color; distinct fuscous or black band along distal margin of antemedial line; postmedial



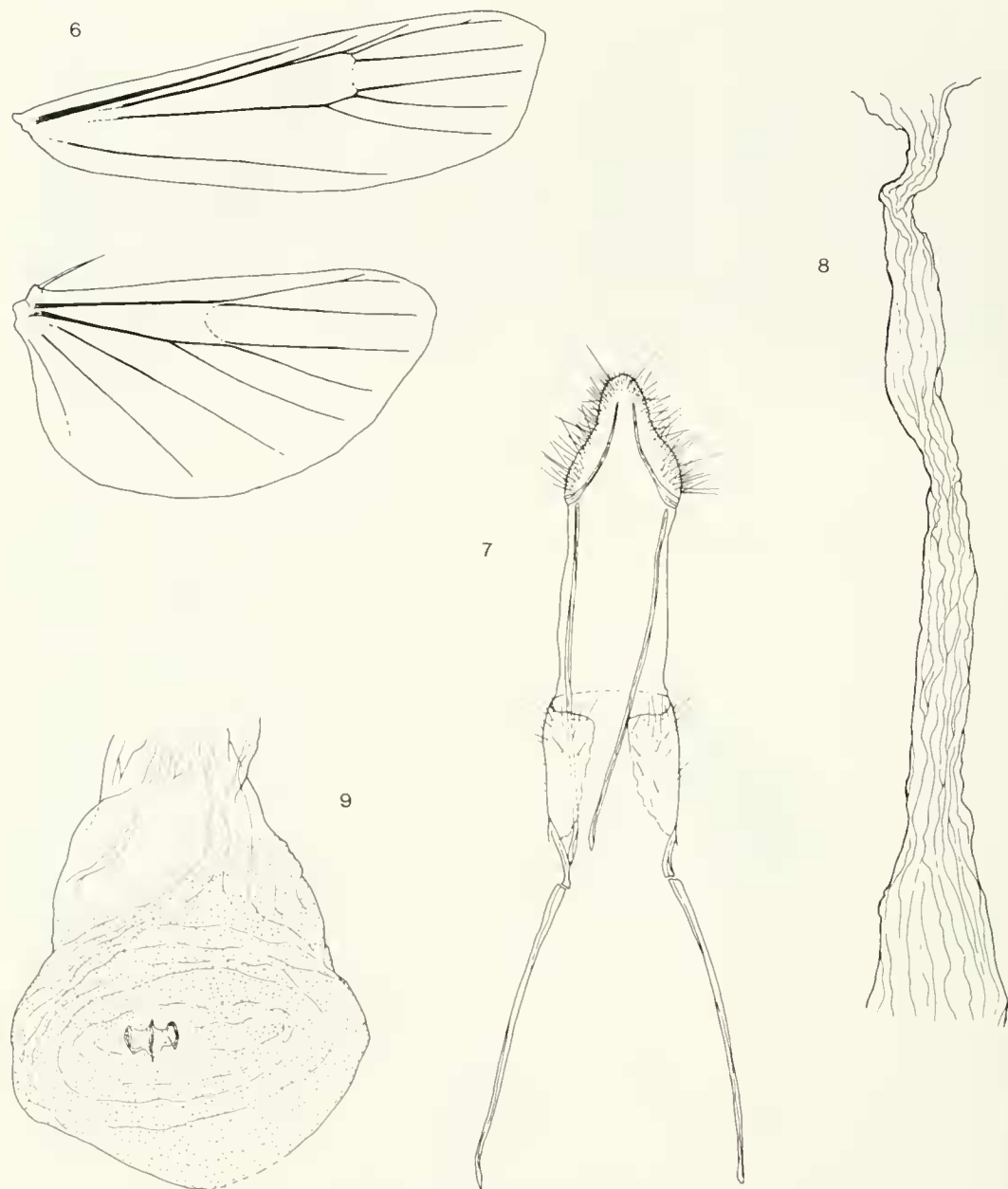
Figs. 3-5. *Myelopsoides venustus*, male genitalia, holotype. 3, Most of genitalia, part of left valva and aedoeagus omitted. 4, Aedoeagus. 5, Part of aedoeagus with vesica everted.

line white to pale gray (with little to moderate amounts of fuscous or black scales in some specimens); distinct fuscous or black band just basad of postmedial line; discal spots fuscous or black, distinct, fused. Hindwing chiefly grayish white with pale

brown border, or pale brown with darker brown border. Male and female genitalia (Figs. 3-5, 7-9) as described for genus.

Immature stages.—Unknown.

Types.—Holotype: ♂. California, Lee Vining Creek, 6 mi west Mono Lake, 7.



Figs. 6-9. *Myelopsoides venustus*, male wings and female genitalia, paratype. 6, Right forewing and hindwing. 7, Posterior part of genitalia. 8, Most of ductus bursae. 9, Distal part of ductus bursae, and corpus bursae.

200', 30-VI-87, D.C. Ferguson, genitalia slide 3977 HHN (USNM). Paratypes 8 ♂, 1 ♀. Same collection data as for holotype, genitalia slide 3978 HHN (1 ♀) (USNM). California, Blodgett For., 13 mi E Georgetown, El Dorado Co., 16-VII-67, P.F. War-

ner (1 ♂) (UCDC). California, 1 mi west Johnsville, Plumas Co., 18-VII-73, R. A. Belmont, genitalia slide 2003 HHN (1 ♂) (UCDC). California, Mono Co., (East) Monitor Pass, T9N R22E S6, 22-VII-84, Adam H. Porter, genitalia slides 1925 HHN,

4194 HHN, 4218 HHN (5 ♂) (UCDC). Idaho, Priest R. Exp. For., 2, 500', Bonner Co., 25-VI-79, D. C. Ferguson, genitalia slide 1349 HHN (1 ♂) (NCSU).

Etymology.—The specific epithet *venustus* is Latin for beautiful.

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